

A TRIBUTE TO ROBIN KELLY
SHEARES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robin Kelly Sheares, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. Robin Sheares was born in Harlem to the late Gloria and Herman Sheares. At the tender age of 6, her family moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant and ever since she has been a member of the Brooklyn community.

A proud graduate of the public school system, Robin has been an attorney for nearly 20 years. She is experienced in housing, criminal and civil law. In her nearly 20 years as an attorney, she has been an administrative law judge, an instructor, and an arbitrator. She is active in Brooklyn, working with community-based organizations, religious institutions, and youth mentoring groups.

Robin Kelly Sheares is an active member of the Wayside Baptist Church and her Block Association. At Wayside, she works closely with the Sunday School and Youth Ministry. Robin's other memberships include, but are not limited to, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

Robin has been dedicated to the Noel Pointer Foundation and the New York Road Runner's Club. Robin is often called upon as a guest lecturer and Career Day speaker. She has even addressed students at her alma maters, Public School 309 and Junior High School 57. Although, Robin has no biological children, she has nurtured a number of youth and is a strong advocate for children and parents rights as evident by her work with the Brownstoners's Education Task Force and her alma maters: Brooklyn Technical High School and Ithaca College.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Robin Kelly Sheares, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Robin Kelly Sheares's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN
HAWTHORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mary Ann Hawthorne, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Born, raised and entirely educated in the State of New York, Mary Ann Hawthorne has found a unique way to give back to her State's education system. Ms. Hawthorne earned her bachelors in education from Bernard Baruch

College in New York City in 1972. During her first 2 years as a teacher, Ms. Hawthorne simultaneously worked her way through graduate school and earned a masters in business education from Long Island University. Four years later Ms. Hawthorne received her professional diploma and masters of science in administration and supervision of education.

Deeply committed to the education of New York's youth, Ms. Hawthorne worked as a teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal. Today Ms. Hawthorne is the community superintendent for District 11 as well as local instructional superintendent for Region 2.

Ms. Hawthorne has acted as a wonderful role model to children and fellow educators alike. Ms. Hawthorne's achievements in education are endless. In September 2001 Ms. Hawthorne was selected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to serve as an assessor for new principals. In January 2003, President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige at the White House honored her when she was picked to be part of a panel of the top eight principals in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Hawthorne is a product of the New York education system and a true inspiration to the community around her. She continues to work to improve education in New York and for that I ask that we recognize and give thanks to Mary Ann Hawthorne for her wonderful contribution to our community.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
MUST PROMOTE DEMOCRACY IN
HAITI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to articulate how crucial it is for the international community to reach out to Haiti and help President-elect Rene Preval achieve his many goals for the impoverished I nation that is Haiti and to enter into the RECORD an editorial appearing in the New York CaribNews appealing for greater international involvement in the country.

Preval's election represents what could be a potential turning point in the history of Haiti which has been marred by corruption, military intervention, violence and a stifling of the will of the people. Having served as president in the 1990s, Preval is the only elected president to have served out a full four-year term without being overthrown. In the elections held last month, Preval was clearly the choice of the masses with more than half of votes cast in his favor—leading his nearest rival, Leslie Manigat, a former president, who received only 12 percent of votes.

So far, the international community has acted on behalf of the Haitian people—urging the country's Electoral Council to declare Preval the winner and preventing further violence from spilling out through the entire country. By doing so, the will of the Haitian electorate was respected and protected.

Now it up to the United States to step in and assist Preval in establishing his government. the government of the United States must act fast to secure the results and also begin providing humanitarian, economic and

other forms of aid that President-elect Preval will need to build and sustain a viable government. I also urge that the transitional government of Haiti to actively engage in the transfer of power to Preval.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in calling on all the great nations of the international community to actively assist Haiti during its momentous transition to a democratically elected government.

[From the New York CaribNews, Feb. 28, 2006]

HAITI HAS A CHANCE TO MOVE FORWARD
(Editorial)

"The international community must show the Haitian people that it is sincere about ending their suffering."

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, one of the strongest and most consistent voices on Capitol Hill when it comes to articulating Caribbean causes was right on the money as he summarized the Haitian situation. His call on the world's leading nations and many developing states to move swiftly to improve the economic and social conditions in what is the Western Hemisphere's poorest nations couldn't have come at a better time.

His plea to the United Nations, Washington, Paris, Ottawa, Berlin, Brasilia, Santiago and other capitals which say they have a keen interest in what happens in the French-speaking Republic that's next door to the Dominican Republic was voiced a few days after Rene' Preval had been declared the winner in the February 7th presidential elections.

If the same international community had previously shown the resolve to end the Haitian nightmare that it demonstrated last week to end the election stalemate, the world's oldest Black Republic would have been spared the pain and trauma it has endured for decades.

By stepping in and forcing the incompetent and politically bias Electoral Council to declare Preval the winner, the countries with the resources and the influence to halt the slide into anarchy avoided more spilling of blood and paved the way for the will of 2.2 million Haitian voters to be recognized.

That it took eight days after the election to count the votes and announce a winner was clear evidence of an attempt by a handful of people, backed by the powerful business and political elite to stop Preval, a former protégé of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide, from taking office after the people had made a clear choice.

Some 33 candidates had faced the electorate but Preval was the only one with widespread national support, especially in the urban slums of Port-au-Prince. That was seen in the fact that his nearest rival, Leslie Manigat, a former President, had received only 12 percent of the votes cast.

Early in the count, Preval had secured a resounding 61 percent but mysteriously, his share of the votes cast began to decline, so much so that by the time 90 percent of the ballots had been tabulated he had only 48.7 percent, less than two percent short of the 50 per cent plus one vote needed to escape a run-off.

Obviously, the Council and Preval opponents were manipulating the process by invalidating almost 150,000 votes, many of them from the poorest areas of the country. They claimed that the spoilt or blank votes which represented about seven percent of the total had to be counted, never mind that it was difficult to understand how so many Haitians who had waited in line for hours, traveled long distances or who had endured all kinds of hardship in order to select their president would then turn around and turn